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Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

ANNUAL OCCURRENCE OF SPADE-FOOT TOADS.

Spade-foot toads (*Scaphiopus holbrooki*) appeared in Patchogue on the evening of May 22, 1915, for at least the fourth successive year. The first hard rain of spring occurred on the night of May 21, and on the evening of May 22, great numbers of toads were present in the same pool in which they have been seen in previous years. On the morning of the 23d nearly every blade of grass in the pool was covered with their eggs, and by night not a toad remained in sight. The sudden emergence of the toads from their underground retreats and their extremely short stay in the breeding pools, probably accounts for the former belief that years usually elapse between their appearances.

FRANK OVERTON,
Patchogue, N. Y.

NOTE ON AN UNUSUALLY LARGE OCEAN SUNFISH.

On May 14, 1915, I examined a very large Ocean Sunfish or Mola (*Mola mola*) at the fish house of the Borzone Fish Company in San Francisco. The fish had been caught the day before in a parancella net about 40 miles off the Golden Gate and south of the Farallons.

The following measurements and notes were taken: Total length 9 feet; width 7 ft. 9 in.; eye to snout 14 in.; diameter of orbit 5 in.; eye to base of pectoral 17 in.; length of pectoral 15 in.; width $12\frac{1}{2}$ in.; gill opening $4\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; length of dorsal (mutilated) 2 ft. 5 in.; width 23 in.; length of anal 21 in.

Color silvery; body, especially anteriorly, covered with hard, bony, silvery, stellate or granular plates.

After the fish had been caught in the net it was attacked by sharks and badly mutilated, especially on the fins and about the nose.

It was said that this fish weighed 2,500 pounds, but I cannot vouch for the truth of this statement. My own estimate was not to exceed 1,800 pounds.

This was said to be the largest fish of this species ever taken by San Francisco fishermen. Smaller examples weighing 300 to 400 pounds are occasionally taken. One was brought in in April of this year that weighed about 300 pounds. One was taken in June, 1893, off Redondo Beach, California, that measured 8 ft. 2 in., and weighed 1,800 pounds.

BARTON WARREN EVERMANN,
San Francisco, Cal.

[The mounted skin of a *Mola* 10 ft 2 in. in total length from Long Beach, California, May, 1911, is exhibited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.—*Ed.*]

HIBERNATION OF REPTILES.

A friend in Bridgeport, Connecticut, is my authority for the statement that there seems to be a great difference in animals, as to their tendency to hibernate in winter, and the effect of temperature upon the physical phases of their life. He had had for three years, in 1910, a brace of rattle-snakes,